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DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS

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To: U.S. Department of Transportation
Dockets Management Facility, Rm PL-401
400 Seventh Str., SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

From: Mickey Killingsworth
798 SE Dover Ln.
Madras, Or 97741

Subject: FMCSA Docket No. FMSCSA-2002-13295 ~ 23

Dear Sir,

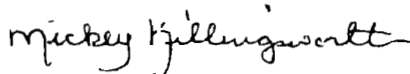
I support the request submitted by the Oregon Department of Transportation for continuation of "F" plates for farmers. I myself farm. This program has worked well for over 25 years. You do not find a high accident rate from farm trucks due to vehicles failing safety inspections. The greatest cause of accidents involving trucks is driver error and when you look at the farm trucks you see only a 1% error rate.

In researching your department's MCSAP it appears you try to base the success of a program on data collected on the performance of a safety program. The data provided to you by the Oregon Department of Transportation verifies the success of the F plate program in Oregon.

I hope that you realize that most of Oregon's F plate trucks are small 10,000 lb. single axle and are used mainly during harvest for short distances. The farmers service these trucks for harvest and the rest of the time they usually are not on roads/highways. Even during harvest most farmers have the trucks take routes that are rural and not congested with lots of traffic.

Farmers are very comfortable with the F plate program and it works well for Oregon. The exemption provides your department the flexibility to award states that have good programs to continue until a data shows that the program is failing.

Sincerely,



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Phone 541/475/6776